

HOUSE No. 462

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Alice Hanlon Peisch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act Ensuring High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Education.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>

<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italian</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 462

By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 462) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others for legislation to develop a high quality pre-kindergarten education grant program . Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act Ensuring High Quality Pre-Kindergarten Education.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 13 the following section:-

3 Section 13A. (a) The department of early education and care, in consultation with the
4 department of elementary and secondary education, shall develop and administer the High
5 Quality Pre-Kindergarten Education grant program to support the implementation of high quality
6 pre-kindergarten programs for children between the ages of 2 years and 9 months and the age a
7 child becomes eligible for kindergarten in the district where he or she resides. The grants shall be
8 used to invest in a high quality, mixed delivery early education system in order to reduce the
9 achievement gap and improve third grade reading scores.

10 (b) The departments shall establish requirements for grant applicants which shall include,
11 but not be limited to the following: (1) a tracking system for preschool students in the program
12 using the state student identifier system; (2) a child to instructor ratio of no more than 10 to 1; (3)

13 tactics to engage families in the enrollment process and implementation of the plan required
14 under subsection (c), and methods to ensure a high level of participation by families with 3 and 4
15 year olds; (4) teacher qualifications and on-going professional development requirements; (5)
16 full school day program in the district; (6) a class size of no more than 20 preschool students; (7)
17 inclusion of children with disabilities; (8) instructional staff salaries and benefits comparable to
18 the responding districts salaries and benefits for kindergarten to high school staff; (9)
19 developmentally and linguistically appropriate instruction; (10) evidenced based curricula; (11)
20 accommodations and support for access and participation in all learning opportunities by each
21 child; (12) a learning environment aligned with the state early learning and development
22 standards; (13) on-site or access to comprehensive services for children; (14) partnership with,
23 and promotion of, community service providers for families to support children's learning and
24 development; (15) evidenced based health and safety standards; (16) a timetable for
25 implementation; (17) program evaluation and data collection systems to ensure continuous
26 improvement; (18) a description of the learning environment reflecting the state early learning
27 and development standards; (19) a description of the physical structures for the education of the
28 students; and (20) a teacher evaluation system and professional improvement program.

29 Grants shall be awarded in the first year to districts designated as underperforming or
30 chronically underperforming pursuant to section 1J of chapter 69. After all grants have been
31 awarded to the districts above, in the second year, grants shall be awarded to districts designated
32 as Level 3, pursuant to the department of elementary and secondary education's accountability
33 rankings, and with third grade proficiency scores of 25 through 46 inclusive. In the third year,
34 grants shall be awarded to districts with an accountability ranking of Level 3 or Level 2 and a
35 third grade reading proficiency score of 47 though 54. In the fourth year, grants shall be awarded

36 to districts with an accountability ranking of Level 3 or Level 2 and with a third grade reading
37 proficiency level of 55 to 74. In the fifth year, grants shall be awarded to those districts with an
38 accountability ranking of Level 1 or 2, and Level 3 ranking in the preceding two years.

39 (c) Each recipient of the grant shall establish a plan to implement the requirements set
40 forth in subsection (b) and any other requirements as may be prescribed by the board of early
41 education and care. Each district shall establish a local governing council to implement and
42 oversee all aspects of the plan. Districts shall provide on a quarterly basis reports to the
43 department of early education and care on all aspects of the plan. The district and the local
44 council shall implement the plan as approved within the period of time approved by the
45 department. Failure to satisfactorily implement the plan within the approved period of time shall
46 result in the termination of the plan and reversion of the grant funds to the department.

47 (d) The board of early education and care shall promulgate regulations to implement the
48 provisions of this act within six months of the effective date including guidelines for membership
49 to local governing councils in each recipient district and evaluation criteria required in the
50 quarterly reports. A grant awarded pursuant to this subsection shall require that recipients
51 undertake ongoing evaluations of the implementation of the plan and all its aspects.

52 The commissioner of early education and care shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of
53 programs established under this section, including the potential for replicating such programs
54 throughout the commonwealth. The commissioner shall also provide technical assistance to
55 school districts seeking to replicate programs funded under this section.